STATINTL

U-2 Pilot's Sister Will Mail Gifts

FALLS CHURCH — Mrs. Veril W. Melvin of Falls Church is wondering today whether there's any sort of Christmas holiday atmosphere in Russia to trickle into the prison where her brother, U-2 pilot Francis Gary Powers, is confined.

"I was sort of wondering how I could find out whether they have any sort of Christmas over there," Mrs. Melvin said today.

Mrs. Melvin recently received a picture of her brother, taken in the prison, as a Christmas memento.

"He looked very well," the Falls Church woman reported. "It relieved me quite a bit... I didn't know what to expect."

She mailed a picture of herself, her husband and two children to her brother in return. Later, after the holiday postal rush is over, she plans to send a package of cigarettes, candy and "anything in tins they'll let him have."

In the brief letter Powers sent his sister with the photograph, he spoke of being allowed to go for a walk each day and getting to feed pigeons.

"Most of what he said was personal . . . they probably wouldn't allow him to say too much," Mrs. Melvin said.